



A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NEWS LETTER



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Editors: James M. Osborn (Yale)
J. Milton French (Rutgers)
James G. McManaway (Folger)

The News-letter

The response to the appearance of the first issue of this News-letter has been very cordial. A commendable number of subscriptions have been received, and they continue to arrive.

If the News-letter is to be continued in its present size and make-up, however, it will be necessary for seventeenth century scholars to show a sustained interest in it. Such an undertaking must depend for most of its material on the news items sent in by subscribers. Communications may be addressed to any one of the editors, whose names appear above.

Many university libraries can be induced to subscribe if members of their faculties ask them to do so. The subscription (\$1.00) should be sent to J. Milton French (Rutgers), who is acting as treasurer.

The first issue and this second one are being sent to a large mailing list of people known to have a past or present interest in the seventeenth century. The editors realize that they have undoubtedly omitted a number of names which should have been included, and they hereby apologize for such derelictions. They only hope that any persons who have been thus neglected will forgive

them and subscribe. The present issue is the last that will be sent to non-subscribers. If you want to be sure of receiving future issues, send in your dollar without delay.

Pforzheimer Library Catalogue

An event of unusual interest to seventeenth century students is the publication of the catalogue of the Carl H. Pforzheimer Library of English Literature, 1475-1700. Handsomely printed in three volumes, it contains copious illustrations of the books and manuscripts.

More than eleven hundred volumes are described in detail with full notes on provenance and bibliographical points. More than half of these books were printed in the seventeenth century, and many of the rarest volumes of the period are included among them. Particularly full sections are devoted to the writings of George Chapman, George Gascoigne, Ben Jonson, and John Marston, as well as to a collection of published interludes.

The manuscripts are listed in the third volume. In most cases complete transcriptions accompany the descriptions. Numbered among them are letters and documents of the following: John Evelyn, Sam-

uel Pepys, Richard Bentley, Sir Robert Howard, Whitelock Bulstrode, Oliver Cromwell, Ralph Cudworth, John Selden, John Donne, Bishop Fell, Bishop Hall, Sir William Temple, Sir Kenelm Digby, Samuel Hartlib, John Locke, Sir John Vanbrugh, and the first Earl of Shaftesbury. The biggest collection comprises the papers of Sir Richard Bulstrode, including verses, essays, and other personal documents as well as 1500 newsletters addressed to him between October, 1667, and June, 1689.

The catalogue is the work of Emma Unger and William A. Jackson. It takes its place as one of the most useful bibliographical tools for sixteenth and seventeenth century research.

Complete Poems of John Donne

Students of Donne's poetry will be interested to see the new edition of the Complete Poems, edited by Roger F. Bennett (Northwestern). This edition makes full use of the Norton collection at Harvard and of various other materials that have come to light since Sir Herbert Grierson edited the poems in 1912. Though intended primarily for students rather than for scholars, the book contains a useful concordance and an index to first lines.

A companion volume of Donne's prose is being prepared by Evelyn Simpson, the author of A Study of the Prose Works of John Donne.

Johnson and Hooker Honored

Among the scholars who have recently been awarded Guggenheim scholarships are two active seventeenth century students, Francis R. Johnson (Stanford) and Edward N. Hooker (UCLA). The award to Mr. Johnson is to continue his "Studies in the History of Scien-

tific Thought in Elizabethan England."

Mr. Hooker's award is for the writing of "A History of English Literary Theory and Criticism in the Neo-Classical Period, 1660-1750." The second volume of his edition of The Critical Writings of John Dennis is now in press and will soon be available. Mr. Hooker plans to remain in Los Angeles for the summer and to start for the East in October.

The Oxford Press

A letter to one of our editors from John Johnson, Printer to the University of Oxford, contains the following paragraph:

"Nowadays you would hardly recognize the Press you use to know, the workrooms manned by women, and the work itself no longer in the service of learning. I have tethered myself to the workrooms as never before, so that I can say without pride that I have not even left the building since war broke out. I sleep here, and eat here, and work here, and may say am happy in the sense of duty performed."

Modern Language Quarterly

Since the death of Ray Heffner, the editorship of the Modern Language Quarterly has been taken over by Frederick M. Padelford.

Report on Folger Accessions

Now in the press is A Report on Progress, 1931-1941, by Dr. Joseph Quincy Adams, Director of the Folger Shakespeare Memorial Library. The volume gives a summary account of the principal collections in the library and a brief description of the more important accessions during the Folger's first decade.

Seventeenth century scholars will be particularly interested in Dr. Adams's comments on the Harmsworth Collection, whose addition to the Library makes the Folger's holdings of STC books probably the most extensive in America. The great Dryden collection formed by P. J. Dobell was acquired by the Folger two years ago and has already proved a boon to Dryden researchers.

Among the notable manuscripts acquired are the John Donne holographs, with a complete account of his romantic marriage; the Loseley MSS, which in addition to sixteenth century documents contain many items of seventeenth century interest; the manuscript plays, now numbering more than fifty for the seventeenth century; and the collection of English secular music, surely one of the most important collections extant.

A recent accession, the gift of Mr. Arthur A. Houghton in celebration of Shakespeare's birthday and the tenth anniversary of the Folger Library, is a seventeenth century manuscript from a family on intimate terms with George Chapman, Ben Jonson, John Dowland, and other literary and musical men. The MS is the primary source for most of the available information about the imprisonment of the authors of Eastward Hoe.

When Dr. Adams's book reaches the reviewers, they will probably devote most of the headlines to the first published account of a hitherto unknown signature of William Shakespeare, the authenticity of which appears well established. We congratulate Dr. Adams and the Folger trustees on this and other Shakespearean accessions, though our gratitude is primarily for the rich materials they have made available to us who toil in adjacent fields.

Modern Language Association

The Modern Language Association will hold its yearly convention next winter at the Hotel Astor in New York, December 29-31. Charles M. Coffin (Kenyon) and Rudolf Kirk (Rutgers), chairman and secretary respectively of Group VI, announce that the topic of this year's meeting will be John Milton. It is planned to have three papers devoted respectively to (1) new research in Milton, (2) recent criticism of Milton, and (3) Milton's philosophy and theology. Any one interested in submitting a paper in any of these fields is invited to write to the chairman.

Maggs Brothers Catalogue

Among recent catalogues from Maggs Brothers are a number of items of interest to seventeenth century scholars. Catalogue 712 contains the following:

457, 458. Two documents concerning Sir Francis Bacon.

474. Bossuet, a.l.s. to Cardinal de Bouillon.

495. Katherine of Braganza, a.l.s. to Cardinal Chigi.

496. Charles II, letter signed, discussing feeling against Roman Catholics in England.

497. Duchess of Cleveland, a.l.s. to Sir Thomas Dyke.

502. The Commonwealth "Oath of Allegiance, "signed by Algernon Percy.

508. A long autograph letter from Oliver Cromwell to his son-in-law, Charles Fleetwood.

509. A.l.s. from Cromwell to Richard Major.

10-11-1918
10-11-1918

546. Henrietta Maria to Louis XIV of France, a.l.s. mentioning the impending restoration of her son, Charles II.

559, 560. Two documents signed by James II.

599. Mary of Modena, a.l.s. to Lady Bellasyse written during James II's compulsory exile from England.

625-630. Notes and manuscripts of Sir Isaac Newton.

631. A.l.s. to Sir Isaac Newton from Nathaniel Hawes.

639. A letter signed, from Samuel Pepys to Admiral Herbert.

662. Letter signed, from Robert Cecil, first Earl of Salisbury, to his son, Lord Cranbourne, while on the Grand Tour in 1609.

675. Algernon Sidney, long letter to his father, the Earl of Leicester, describing diplomatic preparations made for the Restoration.

680. Autograph letter signed, from the first Earl of Strafford to Bishop Bramhall.

In Catalogue 716 there are also the following items of seventeenth century interest:

824. Letter from Milton's friend, Samuel Hartlib, to John Evelyn.

897. Autograph letter from Katherine Philips to Mrs. Temple, signed "Orinda," referring to Mrs. Philips's play Pompey, Sir William Davenant, Waller and his "Sacharissa," etc.

I. K. Fletcher

There are also a number of items

in I. K. Fletcher's Catalogue #29 which may be of interest to seventeenth century scholars.

34. Sir Richard Bulstrode, letters and complimentary poems.

45. Charles I, document signed.

96. Alexander Gill, a Latin poem in praise of Gustavus Adolphus, 1635.

128. A manuscript translation of various odes of Horace.

219. James Newlin, a.l.s. to his brother describing the expulsion of the Demis from Magdalen College, January 18, 1687/8.

285. Five letters from smugglers concerning their illicit trade, 1695.

301. Marmaduke Tankard, letter to Captain Playford, 1654, concerning Tankard's trial for murder.

316. Richard Wentworth, a.l.s. to his uncle, Lord Fairfax.

P. J. Dobell

P. J. Dobell's Catalogue 68 has the usual number of items of special interest to seventeenth century scholars.

28. James Cobbe, unprinted MS translations from Lucian, ca. 1650.

39. Nicholas Dalton, unpublished prose church history, ca. 1620.

41. MS post-mortem records of Devon and Somerset, 238 leaves, indexed.

115. Andrew Marvell, Advice to the Painter, MS copy.

116. Marvell, Non Ego sum Vates, MS copy.

117. Marvell, Britannia and Raleigh, MS copy.

118. Mary of Egypt, MS copy of this sacred poem, ca. 1650.

150. Luke Melbourne, prose discourses, MS vols.

154. Miscellaneous prose and verse, MS, ca. 1686-97.

228. Sir Thomas Overbury, Observations on France, contemporary MS.

289. Robert Overton, unpublished poems.

303. Bishop Simon Patrick, MS poems.

323. Katherine Philips ("The Matchless Orinda"), Poems, 1669, MS transcript.

339. Publius Cornelius Scipio Sui Victor, MS of an apparently unrecorded Latin play.

341. MS poetical commonplace book of Elizabeth Lane: selections from Carew, Corbet, Donne, Jonson, etc., including nine unpublished poems of Strode.

342. MS poetical commonplace book, ca. 1640: selections from Donne, Carew, King, Corbet, Jonson, etc.: Bertram Dobell's edition of Strode was based on this MS.

343. MS religious poems, unpublished.

344. MS poems and translations, ca. 1662, many original and unpublished.

345. MS poetical commonplace book, ca. 1660, selections from Donne, Corbet, Jonson, Strode, etc.

346. MS poems, ca. 1630, some

unpublished.

347. MS poems, including an elegy on Edmund Spenser.

348. MS commonplace book, ca. 1667: selections from Denham, Cowley, etc., and two plays of Roger Boyle.

349. MS poems in different handwritings.

364. MS unpublished poems of John Polwhele.

380. King David's Psalmes, unpublished poetical version, ca. 1650.

446. George Sandys, autograph paraphrase of book of Job.

447. George Sandys, MS paraphrase of the Song of Solomon.

464. Thomas Shadwell, document signed.

Literary Treasures Unavailable

In addition to the libraries mentioned in the last issue, a number of others are taking active measures to protect their rare books and manuscripts. The McAlpin collection at the Union Theological Seminary is being removed for the duration. The most valuable manuscripts and rare books of the Morgan Library have also been sent inland.

Other libraries including the John Carter Brown and the Yale University have been content to store such items underground in their own buildings. As the war continues, these essential materials will undoubtedly become less and less accessible to scholars.

Milton as a Bedside Book

The friends of E. S. de Beer,

the editor of Evelyn's Diary, may be interested in the following passage from one of his recent letters: "I find Milton very useful as a bedside book; the trouble is that I don't know him nearly as well as I should -- I haven't the sort of memory that keeps in mind the whole movement of a thing like Samson. But next time I am lying up for long I shall have the whole of Milton available and try to read right through. At the moment I have only six minor ailments and am sticking to Sir William Temple."

English Institute

The English Institute has reduced the length of its 1942 session to three days, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, September 5, 6, and 7. Seventeenth century scholars will be particularly interested in the section devoted to "Authenticity and Attribution," which will be directed by R. C. Bald (Cornell). The program of the Institute will be published in May. Information may be obtained in the mean time from the secretary, Rudolf Kirk (Rutgers).

Subject Index to STC

One of the most ambitious projects lately undertaken is a subject-index to the titles in the STC 1475-1640. The work is being done by H. A. White (Nebraska), who has already collected more than 16,000 slips.

The index lists the names of authors and towns, and gives classifications under a wide variety of headings. Cross-indexing has been reduced to a minimum in order that the entries may stand independent of each other. When completed, this work should be very useful for students of the period.

For Literary Detectives Only

The manuscript notes illustrated below are written on the end papers of the first edition of one of the great classics of seventeenth century literature. We reproduce them here as a puzzle to pique the curiosity of literary sleuths.

Persons who can unravel the mystery are requested to send their answers to the editors. A report on these results will appear in the next issue.

173 Blaming & taying, and terms of art
used in yr. bo. angardion & fignify that only
yr. parting of dogges & houses though they are
used Metaphorically in severall other profest-
ions for moderating as Law, Divinity, Histori-
-ring &c.

174 Brotherly Rye, Baskin, & Burton who
lay down their ears as Propos for their
professions of yr. Gooly purg, who not
long after maintaining their right & title
to the pillory to be us good & lawfull as
thems who first of all took possession
of it in their names.

248 Popes Bull of Learned Divino in King
James his time wrote a polemick word
against the pope and gave it that unlady
milk-name of the Popes Bull baited.

258 Orat of Sm. Smolimus was a
shub of Parliamentary. Koldus folk, the names
of wry names & talents were by yr. folios
opposit, in yr. folios & insignificant wor-
they were handshakes about their words
for a note distinction (as yr. officers of yr.
parliamentary army then did) with afterward
degenerated into rounall maketh.

259 Vilitigation is a passage humor of
mangling

